

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02978 262107Z

65

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 501

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 2978

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJECT: MUSCOVITE JEWS' FAST. A PUBLIC RELATIONS' FAILURE

REF: MOSCOW 2631

1. WE REPORTED PARAGRAPH 3 REFTEL ON INTENTIONS OF MUSCOVITE DISSIDENT JEWS TO FAST FOR 24 HOURS ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE CONGRESS. APPROXIMATELY 70 JEWS PARTICIPATED, AND EACH FASTED IN HIS OWN APARTMENT. OUR SOURCES TELL US THAT WHILE THE COMMUNITY FEELS MORALLY UPLIFED BY THE FAST, THEY GATHER THAT IT WAS A PUBLIC RELATIONS FAILURE. OUR SOURCES ARE ATTENTIVE LISTENERS TO FOREIGN BORADCASTS, AND SAY THAT THEY WERE DISTRESSED THAT THE WESTERN INFORMATION MEDIA GREETED THE FAST WITH ALMOST TOTAL SILENCE.

2. OUR SOURCES REALIZE THAT THE OPENING OF THE PARTY CONGRESS INEVITABLY OVERSHADOWED ANY OTHER EVENT IN MOSCOW. THEY ALSO REALIZE THAT THEY MADE A MISTAKE IN ORGANIZING THE FAST, SINCE ITS PRIVATE NATURE MADE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS TO GET A USEFUL ANGLE ON WHICH TO BASE A STORY.

3. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THE MUSCOVITE JEWISH DISSIDENT COMMUNITY IS PLANNING NO OTHER ACTIONS DURING THE CONGRESS PERIOD.

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